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ABSTRACT

This book, appropriate for secondary students, includes brief biographies of 21 Native Americans of the 20th century. The biographies focus on childhood experiences, cultural heritage, and career goals. The book is divided into four units that feature Native Americans with successful careers in the fields of literature and drama; fine arts and performance; the sciences and math; and education and public service. The book contains biographies of Hannay Geiogamah (Delaware-Kiowa playwright and dramatist); N. Scott Momaday (Kiowa-Cherokee writer and artist); Wendy Rose (Hopi-Miwok poet); Leslie Marmon Silko (Laguna Pueblo writer); Joy Harjo (Creek poet); Kay WalkingStick (Cherokee painter); Billy Mills (Oglala Lakota Olympic distance runner); Pablita Velarde (Tewa artist and illustrator); Rodney Grant (Omaha actor); Jaune Quick-to-See Smith (Cree-Salish-Shoshone painter); Mary Ross (Cherokee engineer); Al Qoyawayma (Hopi mechanical engineer, environmentalist, and potter); Laura Weber (Mohawk environmental engineer); Fred Begay (Navajo physicist); Lois Steele (Assiniboine physician); Rick Hill (Tuscarora museum curator); Ben Nighthorse Campbell (Northern Cheyenne senator); Shirley Hill Witt (Akwesasne Mohawk anthropologist); Thomas Segundo (Tohono O'Odham council chairman); Laura Wittstock (Seneca media consultant); and Billy Frank (Nisqually environmental activist). Following each biography are discussion questions and exercises on understanding words in context, recalling details, understanding inferences, reading interpretation, analyzing quotations, and critical thinking. In addition, each unit includes activities aimed at career awareness, understanding Native culture, and building research skills; learning activities related to social studies, language arts, visual arts, health, math, and science; and instructions for writing autobiographies and biographies. Includes a glossary, a bibliography, photographs, and an index. (LP)